

Washington, DC – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke Tuesday with leaders of the Joseph Stokes Jr. Research Institute at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) about the importance of supporting research in Pediatric diseases and the collaboration between research facilities. Tom Curran, scientific director of the Stokes Institute, and researchers from the Institute discussed the potential benefits of renewed investment in pediatric treatments, from new cures for children to the addition of new jobs to the local economy.

Signaling his continued dedication to pediatric research, Congressman Sestak co-sponsored the Pediatric Research Consortia Establishment Act. This bill authorizes the NIH to distribute up to \$50 million annually over five years to assist pediatric research organizations nationwide.

"These funds would ensure continued pediatric research in a myriad of specialties ranging from oncology to cardiology," said Congressman Sestak. "Pediatric treatments are often less profitable and, as a consequence, less likely to have industry funding directed to them. This bill would ensure that this important research continues, while also investing in local health infrastructure."

Congressman Sestak's co-sponsorship of this legislation falls in line with his sustained support for pediatric cancer research. Last session, Congressman Sestak similarly supported the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which expanded funding for existing childhood cancer research centers and established a childhood cancer database to be used to investigate potential genetic and environmental causes of childhood cancer.

More than 12,000 children or young people are diagnosed with cancer every year -- 2,300 will die from the disease. Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in children under age 15. Pediatric cancer is also a matter of personal importance to Congressman Sestak -- in 2005, the Congressman's daughter was diagnosed as having a malignant brain tumor. Fortunately, her cancer is currently in remission.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security

Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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